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Conference on Disarmament

3 September 2015

Original: English

Note verbale dated 2 September 2015 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the joint press release from the Inter-Korean High Level Meeting held from 22 to 24 August 2015 at the village of Panmunjom

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament Michael Møller and has the honour of transmitting to the Secretariat the text of the joint press release from the Inter-Korean High-Level Meeting, which was held from 22 to 24 August at Panmunjom, Korea.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea would appreciate the Secretariat's assistance in issuing and circulating this press release as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

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Joint press release from the Inter-Korean High Level Meeting

An inter-Korean High Level Meeting was held from 22 to 24 August 2015 at Panmunjom

From the South, Kim Kwan-jin, Director of National Security, and Hong Yong-pyo, Minister of Unification, participated in the meeting, while Hwang Pyong So, Director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army, and Kim Yang Gon, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party from the North, participated.

The two sides discussed issues aimed at defusing military tensions between the two Koreas which had escalated recently, as well as at advancing inter-Korean relations, and agreed as follows:

1. The South and the North agreed to hold meetings between government authorities at an early date, either in Seoul or in Pyongyang, that are aimed at improving inter-Korean relations, and to conduct dialogue and negotiations on a range of areas in the period ahead.

2. The North expressed regret over the injuries of the soldiers of the South caused by the recent landmine explosions that took place in the southern area of the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line.

3. As long as no abnormal incident occurs, the South agreed to suspend all loudspeaker broadcasts along the Military Demarcation Line, effective 12:00 p.m. August 25.

4. The North will lift its quasi-state of war.

5. The South and the North agreed to arrange reunions of separated families on the occasion of *Chuseok* and continue such reunions in the future and, to this end, to hold working-level Red Cross meetings in early September.

6. The South and the North agreed to boost non-governmental exchanges in a wide range of fields.

Panmunjom, August 25, 2015